

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 EUR-12 ARA-06 /086 W
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R 311102Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2642

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 2126

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, WZ, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: SWAZILAND'S POSITION

REF: A. STATE 303313; B. STATE 302323

1. I CALLED ON THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MATSEBULA DECEMBER 30 TO DISCUSS ANGOLA. MATSEBULA EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION FOR THE MATERIAL PROVIDED BY THE EMBASSY, INCLUDING
THE SECRETARY'S DECEMBER 23 PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. MATSEBULA REITERATED GOS SUPPORT FOR THE OAU POSITION
CALLING FOR A SOLUTION BASED ON A COALITION OF THE THREE
MOVEMENTS AND NON-RECOGNITION OF ANY ONE GROUP IN ANGOLA.

3. MATSEBULA NOTED THE DIVISION AMONG OAU STATES AND AGREED
THAT RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA WOULD ONLY AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION
AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE A CEASE-FIRE. MATSEBULA
THROUGH RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA BY A NUMBER OF AFRICAN STATES
REFLECTED THEIR ABHORRENCE OF APARTHEID AND SOUTH AFRICA'S
INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF FNLA/UNITA; THESE STATES, IN
MATSEBULA'S VIEW, DID NOT TAKE SUFFICIENTLY INTO ACCOUNT THE
BROADER STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE SOVIET
EFFORTS IN ANGOLA. MATSEBULA EXPRESSED THE OFFICIAL SWAEK LINE
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AND ALL FOREIGN TROOPS SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLA, INCLUDING

THE SOVIETS, CUBANS AND SOUTH AFRICANS.

4. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATIONS WITH ME OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, MANY SENIOR SWAZIS HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET EFFORTS TO GAIN CONTROL AND INFLUENCE IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE. THESE OFFICIALS CLEARLY BELIEVE THAT THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF THE SOVIETS IS CONTROL OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE CAPE SEA ROUTE. AS THEY SEE IT, SOVIET SUCCESS IN INSTALLING AN MPLA PROXY IN ANGOLA WOULD BRING ALL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA UNDER PRESSURE, INCLUDING NAMIBIA, ZAIRE, ZAMBIA, RHODESIA, BOTSWANA AND, BY IMPLICATION, SWAZILAND. THE SWAZIS CORRECTLY CONSIDER THE GPRM IDEOLOGICALLY HOSTILE TOWARD THE IRBDVATIVE SWAZI REGIME AND NOT BEYOND LAUNCHING A CAMPAIGN TO UPSET THE GOVERNMENT AT SOME FUTURE DATE. SOME SWAZI HAVE BLUNTLY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ONLY THE UNITED STATES HAS THE POWER TO COUNTER SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IF WE FAIL TO DO SO, MANY SWAZIS MAY WELL FEEL THE NEED TO REACH AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THEIR MARXIST ORIENTED NEIGHBOR, MOZAMBIQUE; THIS MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT SWAZI PRO-WESTERN FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NATIONAL UNIFICATION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MBABAN02126
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760001-0293
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975121/aaaaaasg.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 303313, 75 STATE 302323
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGOLA: SWAZILAND'S POSITION
TAGS: PFOR, US, WZ, AO, UR, OAU, MPLA, (MASEBULA)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006